

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
October 26 - October 30, 2009**

1. **Leaf Collection:** The annual 7-week leaf collection will start November 16 and run through December 31. Residents can rake leaves out to the curb at their convenience. City crews will be collecting leaf piles throughout the City over those seven weeks. For residents on state highways, the collection will occur twice and the streets will be posted. A mailer will be sent to every house during the first week of November. The City also provides a Leaf Collection Hotline at 301-891-7626. Residents can call this number when their leaf pile is at the curb. The goal of the program is to collect the piles within two weeks of their appearance at the curb. Contact the Public Works office at 301-891-7633, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for any questions. *(Public Works)*
2. **Installation of One Speed Hump and a Raised Intersection in New Hampshire Gardens (Ward 6):** The City Council approved the installation of several traffic calming measures for the New Hampshire Gardens neighborhood. Next week, the City contractor will be installing one speed hump on Lockney Avenue, between Anne Street and Kirklynn Avenue, and a raised intersection at Glenside Drive and Merwood Drive. The remaining single speed hump planned for Wildwood Drive between Anne and Kirklynn Avenue will not be installed until after the block is resurfaced, which is scheduled for the next fiscal year. The approved traffic calming plan also calls for three traffic circles to be installed at Kirklynn Avenue and Kennewick Avenue, at Wildwood Avenue and Kingwood Avenue and at Wildwood Avenue and Kirklynn Avenue. These circles are still in the design stages and are expected to be installed in the spring of 2010. *(Public Works)*
3. **Green Roof Installation:** The City has received approval from the Maryland Department of the Environment to award a contract for the Green Roof installation for the deck of the community center. The work will begin early in November and should be completed within a couple of weeks. The deck, which has been closed for quite awhile, will be open after the project is complete. *(Public Works)*
4. **Lawn Improvements:** On Thursday and Friday, crews from Public Works aerated and top dressed the lawn and garden areas around the Community Center and Library. Compost was applied, as was compost tea, which provides beneficial fungi and nutrients to the soil. The project will enhance the soil for the existing trees as well as improve the turf conditions. The materials used are organic and safe and made from leaves. *(Public Works)*
5. **Old Takoma Fall Clean Up Day:** Despite the dreary weather, last Saturday 17 volunteers along with OTBA staff, Office of Student Life for Montgomery College Takoma Park/Silver Spring, and the VISTA/ESOL Student Volunteer Program cleaned up the Old Town areas. They gathered 22 bags of compostable materials and 8 bags of litter, and planted 200 tulip bulbs and 180 pansies. The group also started a new flower bed at the 7-11 at Cedar Avenue. Students enjoyed their experience and look forward to future volunteering activities, "I learned many things it was great to help the community and the community helped me [earn student hours]", "We did this service because we want the town to look beautiful." *(Housing and Community Development)*
6. **New Exhibit in Gallery 3:** November marks the beginning of a new exhibit in Gallery 3 on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center. "Faces of Challenge, Faces of Triumph," an exhibition of union leader portraits by local resident Sherrell Medbery, can be viewed this month with an opening reception scheduled for this coming Friday, November 6, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please join us as we celebrate the artist and her work. *(Housing and Community Development)*
7. **Free Foreclosure Workshop - November 14:** Are you experiencing financial difficulty? Is your mortgage going to reset to a rate that is beyond your means? Please consider getting help at a free workshop that is being sponsored by the State of Maryland, Montgomery County and Montgomery College on Saturday, November 14 at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Performing Arts Center at Montgomery College, 7989 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Bring your mortgage paperwork, all notices you have received in the mail and monthly budget information. There will be counselors and attorneys available who have expertise in foreclosure who will be able to evaluate your situation and outline your options. Don't wait until it's too late! For information or to register to meet with a counselor or attorney, call 1-866-357-5103. *(Housing and Community Development)*
8. **First Time Home Buyers Class (English and Spanish):** Eighteen potential home buyers attended the First Time Home Buyers class, conducted in English, on Saturday, October 24 at the Takoma Park Community Center. The class is offered free of charge and is an excellent way for first time home buyers to become familiar with the process of buying a home. Speakers from a real estate office, a bank, a title company and an inspection company explained the process from beginning to end and offered their expertise on the current market. The next class will be given in Spanish and will take place on Saturday, November 14, from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required by calling 301-891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*
9. **Post Purchase Home Ownership Class:** On Wednesday, November 4, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., the City will sponsor a class on post purchase home ownership at the Takoma Park Community Center. Now that you own your home, how can you maintain it and stay financially healthy? Tips on budgeting, maintenance, refinancing and home equity opportunities will be covered. Pre-registration is required by calling 301-891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*
10. **Fair Return Rent Petition Training for Landlords:** Those landlords who are subject to rent stabilization might want to attend the next training on the fair return petition process. Landlords who believe that their net operating income for their rental property has decreased over the years may be eligible for an increase that is greater than the rent stabilization allowance. Learn how to apply through the petition process. The class will be conducted by staff on Thursday, December 10 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center. Pre-registration is required by calling 301-891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*
11. **2010 Rental Housing License Fee:** The fee for the City's 2010 Rental Housing License has been established at \$94 per unit. The fee, which has not been increased, is based on the increase in the CPI between September 2008 and September 2009 as published by the Bureau of Labor Standards. Billings for the 2010 licenses and refuse fees will be mailed out later in November. For information on the City's rental housing

licensing requirements, please contact the Code Enforcement Division at 301-891-7255. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. **Teen Halloween:** The Teens and pre-teens are coming to the end of "Halloween" which began last Friday with a trip to the Haunted Forest in Kingsville, Maryland. A Halloween themed activity took place every day this weekend, including HalloJeopardy and Fear Factor. Halloween will end this afternoon with a Halloween party in the teen lounge. *(Recreation)*

13. **Family Night at Takoma Park Middle School:** The Takoma Park Middle School held its first family night of the season on Thursday, October 29. The Takoma Park Recreation Department participated at this event by facilitating activities for the children while the parents participated in the workshop "Tools to Succeed in School and Beyond." An estimated 60 adults and children attended this event. *(Recreation)*

14. **Halloween Events:** Come join us for the annual Halloween events on Saturday, October 31, at 4 p.m. Please note the earlier start time to allow for trick-or-treating. The event begins with the Costume Contest in Old Town, Carroll and Laurel Avenues. Following the contest is the parade to Piney Branch Elementary School for the announcement of the contest winners and the distribution of treats provided by the Lions Club. *(Recreation)*

15. **Winter Basketball League:** The Winter Basketball League for grades K-8 has officially filled all of its commissioner positions which will play a vital role in the success of the league for this upcoming year. On November 5, a Commissioner's Meeting will take place at the Takoma Park Community Center to show everyone how to use the new League Section of the Activenet site. Also, a website will be going up for the Takoma Park Winter Basketball League that will have contact information for all coaches and League commissioners as well as game schedules and practice schedules along with updated information about the upcoming league. Since the program was such a huge success last year, we are getting an early start in anticipation of over 600 participants this year. So sign up early to get on your team! For more information on this program, please contact Will Hanner at WilliamH@takomagov.org or by phone at 301-891-7284. *(Recreation)*

16. **Recreation Center Teen Job Training Program:** The job training program held at the Recreation Center on New Hampshire Ave has just completed its third week. We are pleased to announce that two of the participants have already become gainfully employed. One has been hired by the Takoma Park Recreation Department and the other has been offered an employment opportunity with Sears. *(Recreation)*

17. **Candidates Forum:** The Takoma Park Recreation Center hosted a Candidates Forum on Thursday, October 29. The forum was for a Ward 6 City Council seat and Mayor. It was well attended with standing room only availability in the back meeting room. *(Recreation)*

18. **Haunted Forest:** On Friday, October 23, eleven teens went on a trip to the Haunted Forest in Baltimore. All of the teens were able to attend the trip free of charge due to a private donation for this event. *(Recreation)*

19. **Basketball Skills Center:** The basketball skills center began on Saturday, October 24. We currently have 17 youth enrolled in this program. The program is being conducted by former Georgetown great and former NBA player Reggie Williams. Youth are learning the fundamentals of basketball and gaining a keen insight on the game. Come and join in the fun with us! *(Recreation)*

20. **What's on City TV?:** City TV staff covered the Third Thursday poetry series last week which will start airing in several weeks. This week, City TV staff covered the Pedestrian Safety Ribbon Cutting at Takoma-Langley Crossroads. City TV crews will be going in costumes as videographers to Saturday's Halloween Parade and festivities. Next week City TV will cover live election results on Tuesday. *(Communications)*

21. **Going Digital:** City TV staff attended the Pro Products Technology fair last week to learn about new equipment to support the Auditorium renovation and in the continued quest towards going all digital. *(Communications)*

22. **The Candidate's Forum:** On Sunday, City TV aired the Takoma Voice Candidate's Forum, which is in replays until the election. It is also available for online viewing at: http://takomapark.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=92. *(Communications)*

23. **Scantegrity:** A press release was issued on Thursday regarding the City's use of Scantegrity for the election on Tuesday; the press release is posted at www.takomaparkmd.gov. *(Communications)*

24. **The Newsletter:** The November Newsletter was mailed this past week, and is posted online at: <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/news/newsletter/2009/nov09.pdf>. All households should have received one by now; anyone who didn't can call 301-891-7118 or use the MyTKPK online customer service center to report this at http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/customer_service/. *(Communications)*

25. **Officers in Meetings:**

- On October 24, CSAFE-VPI staff partnered with Impact Silver Spring and many other community volunteers to knock on doors in the CSAFE-VPI community. These door knocking efforts, being led throughout the county by Impact Silver Spring, were conducted to connect CSAFE-VPI residents to much needed social services.
 - On October 27, Chief Ricucci met with Wolfgang Mergner to discuss Emergency Preparedness.
 - On October 28, Chief Ricucci attended a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the first step of what is anticipated to be a truly safe and reliable transit center for the surrounding community. This ceremony was hosted by the Multijurisdictional Pedestrian Safety Committee (MPSC) and sponsored by the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority (CDA).
 - On October 28, Capt. Ed Coursey attended the monthly Council of Governments (COG) Police Chief's Committee meeting.
- (Police)*

26. **Officers in Training:**

- On October 26 to 28, various members of the police department attended the 2009 Night Fire Qualification at the MPCTC Firearms Training Facility in Sykesville.
- On October 27, Sgt. Frishkorn, D/Pfc. Fields, D/Pfc. Hoetzel and D/Pfc. Barber attended "Cybercrimes Training," which was hosted by the Maryland Attorney General and Microsoft Law Enforcement Technical and Investigative Support Team. The training was held at the Police & Correctional Officers Training Center in Sykesville.
- On October 27 and 28, Ms. Pullet and Ms. Hernandez attended Records Management System (RMS) training in Hyattsville.
(Police)

27. **Traffic Enforcement:** Officers conducted at least 64 traffic stops, which resulted in citations, two vehicle impounds and one Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) arrest from traffic.

During October 14-29, 2009, the following details were completed:

October 14, 2009

- Flower Avenue & Sligo Creek Parkway (stop sign enforcement) – conducted a 30-minute detail and issued three State citations.

October 23, 2009

- Philadelphia Avenue & Holly Avenue (stop sign enforcement) – conducted a 30-minute detail and issued four State citations.

October 28, 2009

- Philadelphia Avenue & Holly Avenue (stop sign enforcement) – conducted a 30-minute detail and issued one State citation and two warnings.

October 29, 2009

- Philadelphia Avenue & Holly Avenue (stop sign enforcement) – conducted a 30-minute detail and issued two State citations and one warning.